

## **Management of Value Based Education and Spirituality: A Practical**

**Application by Mahamana Malaviyaji in BHU**

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### **Abstract**

Education is the backbone of a civilized society. Values have an important role in education system of any society. Most important thing is that, education should be based on some core values of human being like truthfulness, honesty, justice, good behavior etc. Only this can help a society to maintain a peaceful atmosphere. As all human beings are social animals, so this is the duty of every human being to obey their social responsibility. Mahamana Malaviyaji is one of those great personalities who felt his social responsibility very well and established Banaras Hindu University to bring people out from the mode of ignorance. He values our Indian culture and tradition, which is based on Bhagavat Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam. His genuine effort was to build the character of new generations, so that they can be a good citizen of the country and thus can serve the country. This paper intends to focus on Mahamana's practical thoughts and applications to contribute to the value-based education system.

**Key words:** Values, Education, Management, Spirituality, Culture

### **Introduction:**

Education is a gradual process. One can be educated from his/her family, surroundings, association and experiences. It is not only about gaining degree, but also gaining knowledge and implementing it in their practical life. For example, in earlier *Gurukula*, a student gained all kinds of knowledge, including material as well as spiritual knowledge. Material knowledge helped them to maintain their matter (body) and spiritual knowledge helped them to maintain their spirit (soul). The value based education system is same like earlier *Gurus'* teachings. *Gurus* like Vasista Muni, Dronacharya, Sandipani Muni all managed around ten thousand students under them. They provided free fooding and lodging facilities and provided many *Vidyas* (like

mathematics, astronomy, grammar, ayurveda etc.). The kings and emperors at earlier ages at that stage were expert in every field. It included,

1. *Vedas*: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sam Veda, Atharva Veda
2. *Ayurveda*: (Medicine, Botany)
3. *Gandharva Veda*: (Music)
4. *Dhanur Veda*: (Arms)
5. *Artha Veda*: (Mechanic Arts)
6. *Vedangas*: Siksha (Orthoepy).
7. *Vyakaran*: (Grammar), Chhandas (Prosody), Nirkuta (Sacred lexicography), Kalpa (Ritual)
8. *Darshana*: Mimamsa (Metaphysics), Vedanta
9. *Dharmashastras*: Law, Civil and Spiritual
10. *Purana*: History, Ethics, Heroic Poetry
11. *Jyotish*: Astronomy, Geography and Pure Mathematics
12. *Nyaya*: Logic and Philosophy

But if now-a-days we ask in any University whether there is any subject teaches them what happens where they will go after death, there is no answer. Because people now think that there is no difference between matter and spirit. They think the body is whole and soul. But it is very important to teach them that there is a big difference between body and soul. Body is mortal, soul is not. Even some people think that there is no soul. But the consciousness is the proof of existence of the soul. Or else what is the difference between a dead body and a live body? Why if a woman losses her husband she cries saying that he has left me by leaving his body. Why she cries for? This is because the body is useless without the soul. This science is given in our scriptures. In Gita and Upanishads it is written that after death, where the soul goes. This kind of education helps students to live in a platform of honesty and truthfulness. If one accepts the existence of soul, he will accept the existence of God. And when he accepts the existence of God, he knows that there is one invigilator for everyone as *Paramatma* (The Super Soul) within everybody. So he remains civilized. This way crime can be removed from the society.

Mahamana Malaviyaji wanted to give this kind of atmosphere what the earlier *Gurus* gave to their society. Earlier *Gurus* managed more pupils, still their education was complete and by that way they were more capable teachers. To give value education to students, a teacher should also live a life of a good human being. Mahamana was very knowledgeable and intelligent. So he

knew that only by educating spiritually one can achieve a good character and a strong character people can only be a good citizen. And, citizens are very important part of the country. If every individual do their duty honestly, the Nation will progress automatically. But for that, everyone should be educated about their real identity and that real identity is we are not this body we are soul and part of God. This is the first step towards self-realization. From our scriptures we can know that human life is very important. In this human form we can realize about God. Or else the four things are common in every living entity (animals, birds, insects etc.): 1. eating, 2. sleeping, 3. protecting and 4. mating. If we only use our intelligence to do these four things better, that is only the misuse of our intelligence. Only in a human form one can think beyond this. In 1<sup>st</sup> *Vedanta Sutra* also it is said, “*Athato Brahmajigyasa*”, in a human form one’s duty is to search about their real identity and source, and He is God. The education system, who gives us the knowledge about the real value of human life, is called value based education.

### **The Mahamana’s Individuality:**

Mahamana Malaviyaji was born on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1861 in Prayag (Allahabad). He was a son of a pure Vaishnava. His father Pandit Brajnath Chaturvedi was a learned man in Sanskrit and scriptures, a worshipper of Lord Radha Krishna. So Malaviyaji got spiritual knowledge from his parents. His father took care of his family like a real Brahman, giving Pravachan on Bhagavat Gita near Ganga. His mother Srimati Muna Devi was also a very kind lady and always helped the suffering people. He said that he could do the service to people and country, because of his parents’ pious character and their continuous practice to live a good devotional life. Earlier parents named their children related to the name of Krishna/Rama/Vishnu. According to our scriptures these names benefit both who call one by the name and whom they call. We have a great example in *Srimad Bhagavatam* about Brahman namely Ajamila. He took name of his little child Narayana at the time of his death and Lord Vishnu forgave his all sins and sent *Vishnu Duta* (servant of Lord Vishnu) to take him to *Vaikunth Dham*. Malaviyaji’s father understood this concept well. Malaviyaji had eight brothers and sisters. Pandit Brajnath jee named them as *Laxmi, Narayan, Sukhdei, Jaikrishna, Subhadra, Madan Mohan, Shyamsundar, Manoharlal and Biharilal* respectively. But due to lack of spiritual education now we prefer the names which have no spiritual meaning. That is degradation of education and degradation causes to various crimes in the society. We cannot stop crimes only by shouting or punishing or scolding the criminals and corrupt leaders. If we really want to stop these crimes we must adopt a value based

life according to our scriptures and have to educate the society. This is the best social service and Madan Mohan Malaviyaji is a practical example of it.

He memorized many *Vedic slokas* in his childhood. He said that many of the *Vedic slokas* he was able to memorize because of the effort of his father and his respected Guru Hardevji. He also said that these *Slokas* always worked as his permanent property in his whole life to face any situation. They guided and motivated him to choose the right path. To maintain his continuous study his parents struggled a lot, as his family's economic condition was not good. This situation always influenced and motivated Malaviya ji. When he established Banaras Hindu University, he was always concerned about the poor students. He said that if anybody be deprived from knowledge due to his/ her poor economical condition it is very painful. So he always motivated everyone for study and considered poor students' fees.

Malaviyaji said that background of family is important for a good character. Our home is the first school for us. If we teach our children ethical values from childhood, it benefits them whole life. If one mother makes her child sleep by saying stories from our Upanishads, then it influences their mind to remain spiritual (God conscious) whole life. These stories are more heroic and interesting. It benefits both, who is narrating the pastimes of God, and who is listening. Others stories are not so effective, even if it includes a moral story. But stories related to Krishna, Rama, and His devotees benefit a child internally and it is very easy to implement. For example, when a mother tells her children that Moon is their, *Mama (Chanda Mama)* they believe. Then if we train them from childhood saying that Lord Krishna is the God, Lord Rama is the God, He is the controller of whole Universe, won't they believe? Mahamana Malaviyaji was the great example, who was trained from his childhood by his parents.

He learnt all good qualities from his father and teachers and was very controlled in behavior, living style and in eating habits right from his childhood. He never took any intoxication in his life, not even tea. He said that God is so merciful and gave us intelligence, so we should not eat or drink anything that diminishes our intelligence. He strongly believed that character of a person depends upon his birth- situation and family values.

Malaviya Ji valued Sanskrit language above all. He told it is our hereditary property. Our real knowledge, our holy scriptures, which teaches us the balanced and disciplined life styles, all religious philosophies are saved in Sanskrit language. The ancient texts written in this mother of languages, taught how an individual can develop oneself individually, physically, mentally and spiritually. Our scriptures reveal how one should develop his personality; build a strong

character, developing a strong society etc. English philosopher Sir Monier William said that by studying Sanskrit language we can get a non-comparable mental strength. Moreover, if one memorizes *Slokas* from *Bhagavat Gita* and *Upanishads* it increases his/her memory power automatically. It also provides us positive power to perform our work peacefully. Those who read the Holy Scriptures, and try their best to follow the rules and regulations, they gain a big confidence in themselves. They always remain free from any material distress and thus can be a good leader, manager or teacher. Mahamana Malaviyaji followed scriptures and his life is a practical example of success.

### **Malaviyaji and BHU:**

He successfully established BHU in 1916 to teach the future generation about the real independence. Though he did not fight like Mahatma Gandhi, but still we cannot deny his great contributions. Mahatma Gandhi also respected Malaviyaji very much. Once, in Shimla Malaviyaji was walking with judge of Madras High Court Shri Shankaran Naiyar. Deshbandhu Shri Andrews was walking with Mahatma Gandhi just behind them. Andrews appreciated Gandhiji for his success about non-cooperation movement. 40 crores Indian people supported Mahatma Gandhi in this movement. Gandhiji said that he didn't accept non-cooperation movement as his success till Malaviyaji didn't accept it.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya ji wanted to spread knowledge all over the country. He considered knowledge as the only way to bring out every individual from the mode of ignorance. If every individual become knowledgeable then the country will develop automatically. So, with this holy concept he established Banaras Hindu University in Kashi, near Ganges, the most holy place considered by Srimad Bhagavatam.

It is said that if someone visits the Holy Place like Kashi even for a few days, still they are benefited a lot. Because according to our scriptures Dham (holy places) has its own positive effect. He knew the value of positive atmosphere and knew the ultimate source of it. That's why he always stressed upon our scriptures (Gita and Upanishads).

The objectives set for Banaras Hindu University are as follows:

1. To promote the study of the Hindu Shastras and of Sanskrit literature generally as a means of preserving and popularizing for the benefit of the Hindus in particular and of the world at large

in general, the best thought and culture of the Hindus and all that was good and great in the ancient civilization of India.

2.To promote learning and research generally in Arts and Sciences in all branches

3.To advance and diffuse such scientific, technical and professional knowledge, combined with the necessary practical training as is best calculated to help in promoting indigenous industries and in developing the material resources of the country

4.To promote the building up of character in youth by religion and ethics as an integral part of education.

We can see that first and last objective of BHU is clearly indicating the focus on reading scriptures and thus build a good character.

Education system is the backbone of any society. In Vedic period our education system was pure (not corrupted) and complete. Britishers knew that without destroying the education system of India and without breaking the unity between the people, they cannot survive for more years in India. So they started establishing schools and colleges to educate the mind of next generation according to their philosophy. Malaviyaji understood the importance of the need of a good education system to save the Vedic Culture. So he gave his full effort to establish BHU, and tried to make an educational climate based on our scriptures. Malaviyaji wanted to devote himself fully to the service of the country, by making the character of new generations and gifting good citizens to mother India. He was a very sincere and good son of mother India and he did his part very well. Now it is the duty of us to follow his path and educate the new generations materially as well as spiritually.

In Gita Krishna says,

*Mac-cittah sarva-durgani mat-prasadat tarisyasi*

*Atha cet tvam abankaram na srosyasi vinanksyasi.*

(Bhagavat Gita 18.58)

If you become conscious of Me, you will pass over all the obstacles of conditioned life by My grace. If, however, you do not work in such consciousness but act through false ego, not hearing Me, you will be lost.

“A person in full Krsna consciousness is not unduly anxious about executing the duties of his existence. The foolish cannot understand this great freedom from all anxiety. For one who acts in Krsna consciousness, Lord Krsna becomes the most intimate friend.”

If we can understand this *sloka*, we will consider Lord as our friend. So to please our intimate friend or best friend we will do our duty according to scriptures. This activity helps us to systemize our life and give more focus to our every work, as Malaviyaji did.

Our scriptures are authentic and that has been proved many times. For example, Einstein gave a theory that the Sun and Moon light is not only rays, they have particles. Later the modern scientist proved it. But it was written in our Srimad Bhagavatam more than 5000 years ago.

Lord Brahma is glorifying Krishna in this *Sloka*...

*guṇātmanas te 'pi guṇān vimātuṁ*

*hitāvatīrṇasya ka īsire 'sya*

*kālena yair yā vimitāḥ su-kalpair*

*bhū-pāṁśavah khe mihikā dyu-bhāṣah*

“In time, learned philosophers or scientists might be able to count all the atoms of the earth, the particles of snow, or perhaps even the shining molecules radiating from the sun, the stars and other luminaries. But among these learned men, who could possibly count the unlimited transcendental qualities possessed by You, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who have descended onto the surface of the earth for the benefit of all living entities?” (Srimad Bhagavatam 10.14.7)

So, whatever theory was given by Einstein was already written in Srimad Bhagavatam, which is most authentic Purana....

*nimna-gānām yathā gaṅgā*

*devānām acyuto yathā*

*vaiṣṇavānām yathā sambhuh*

*purāṇānām idam tathā*



Just as the Gaṅgā is the greatest of all rivers, Lord Acyuta the supreme among deities and Lord Śambhu [Śiva] the greatest of Vaiṣṇavas, the Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam is the greatest of all Purāṇas. (Srimad Bhagavatam 12.13.16)

Another example is, in *Rig Veda* it is already mentioned that earth moves around Sun. Modern scientist knew it later. There are many proofs about the authenticity of our Holy Scriptures. The God is the best scientist. And through the great sages (old scientist), God gave us the accurate knowledge. We just need to follow them without wasting time. By our limited senses we are not able to experiment everything. Scriptures are authentic and they never proved wrong, as earlier scientists were more intelligent. They not only had knowledge about matter but also about the spirit. They were totally surrendered to The Supreme Personality of Godhead. They was not worried about name and fame, but for the welfare of people. That type of education system Malaviyaji wished to establish in BHU.

He wanted students to do their duty honestly and selflessly. He knew it is only possible if every student adopt the values from our most authentic scriptures. Due to lack of knowledge about spirit, the modern scientists prove something; then again they get new information from research and change the earlier statement. The scientists during Vedic Period have given us accurate knowledge, as they all were empowered by the Lord.

### **Practical Adoption of Values by Malaviyaji:**

Now a day's people are confused about what the value means. Value has two meanings: 1. what a person values in his life and 2. What are the ethics to live a peaceful life in a society. But, due to so called modern atmosphere, people consider the first definition as value. Now we say according to me this is right. But that cannot be right for others. Behaving differently cannot give us the actual value of life. Every human being is the part of Supreme Personality of Godhead, so they must have some common values to live a peaceful life. Truth, justice, honesty, good behavior, sympathy, empathy, kindness, cleanliness etc. are some common core values to maintain a good society. But due to an improper education system people are engaged only in their sense gratification. They don't want to think about the society. For example, some values money more than other things, some values recognition. But Bhagavat Gita says that we should not run after money or recognition. We should work without the expectation of result. And this statement is very practical given by Lord Krishna. How? For example, one is doing his work



taking so much pressure and tension about the result, and then he will not be able to give his 100 percent to his work due to mental pressure. But if we follow this instruction of Lord Krishna and don't think about result, only do our duty honestly, not to satisfy only our boss but to satisfy the Almighty (who is the actual boss of every soul), automatically we can perform better. We accept that pressure or stress giving is also motivating factor. But, it is a negative motivating factor. But if we follow the instructions of Bhagavat Gita then we can perform better in our life positively. How this understanding will be developed within people? Only by studying and understanding our scriptures it is possible. Mahamana was clear about these values. Malaviyaji said to the students of BHU that not to consider Sunday as Holiday, but to consider as Gita Jayanti. He advised to students that on Sunday they must attend Gita class regularly. Today also Gita classes are organized by the University in the Malaviya Bhavan within University Campus.

Malaviyaji adopted Satya (truth) as his value of life. He told students to live a life of a truthful person. And if sometimes they lie for any reason, they must beg forgiveness and should not repeat it again. He said that students should maintain a daily diary to mention their progress and write their mistakes. So that in future they don't repeat mistakes and thus can build a good character. Malaviyaji never tell any lie even when he was working as a lawyer. In that profession it is very difficult to maintain truthfulness. But Malaviyaji's value was "value", not money. So he never took any case where he needed to lie. If we ask an ordinary person to maintain truthfulness he will say not possible in his profession. But Malaviyaji is a practical example of it. He maintained truthfulness in his every profession (teacher, journalist, lawyer etc.). We also can develop our capability living a scripture based life.

He also valued Brahmacharya (celibacy). He gave example of Bhisma and Arjuna. Being a *Grihastha* (married person) also Arjuna lived a controlled life. He did all his works according to scriptures. Now-a-days illegal relations between man and woman are increasing. Extra marital affairs are decreasing family values. So Malaviyaji wanted all students to live a controlled life as mentioned in scriptures. Though most of the time we can't see the result of our act immediately but our illegal act causes sin, which is not good for our next birth. Every *Karma* (deed) has its own time for delivering fruits. For example, some trees give fruits within few years, but some trees take 12 to 15 years. Likewise we get the fruits of *Karma* at its own pace. Some fruits we get in this birth and some in next subsequent births. The coming generations may laugh at all these statements if they don't read Bhagavat Gita and Bhagavatam, but if we can educate them about our scriptures, it will help them to live a systematic and controlled life. Malaviyaji wanted a

controlled life from students. This was the reason why he gave so much importance of reading, understanding and implementing the instructions of Bhagavat Gita.

He valued equality. For women he said that for a woman education is very necessary. They are the first teacher of her child. So, education for women cannot be ignored. In Vedic period the mothers were very much educated. They were expert in scriptures as their husbands were. Kunti Maharani is a great example. We can read her teachings in Srimad Bhagavatam. She was a great lady who was intelligent and lived her life according to the scriptures. Her sons obeyed her every words. They saw their mother from childhood that she was very strict to scriptures and was a great devotee of Lord Krishna. Our society needs women who are strict to scriptures. That is why for women also value based education is very important. Malaviyaji always promoted women education and allowed Vedic Study for women in BHU. Some Brahmins were against of it, but Malaviyaji was a great scholar in scriptures and he defeated all.

Malaviyaji values Nyaya (justice). He fought for Harijans against Brahmins of Varanasi. He allowed Mantra Deeksha (Spiritual Initiation) for low born people if they live their life in mode of goodness (Satoguna). Varnas( Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra) are divided by *Karma* (occupation) in our scriptures, not by birth. For example: If a Doctor's son is not a doctor by qualification we don't call him a doctor or don't visit him for treatment since he is not qualified for the profession. Likewise, if a person is son of a pure Brahmin, but he is not having the qualities of a Brahmin (qualities mentioned in our scriptures), we should not take his advice for spiritual development. Our society is not following this instruction of our scriptures now a days and this is the root cause of social degradation. In our Padma Purana it is mentioned that one who is a qualified Brahmin, but not a Vaishnava, he cannot be a spiritual master (Guru).

*Shatkarma nipuno Vipra Mantratantra Visharadah*

*Avaishnavo Gururnasyad Vaishnavah Shwapocho Guruh.*

( Padma Puran)

In Chaitanya Charitamrita (Madhya 8.128) it is written:

*Kiba Vipra, kiba Nyasi, Shudra Kene Noi*

*Jai Krishna Tatvavetta, Sei Guru Hoi.*

One can be Brahmin, Sanyasi or Shudra. But when he becomes expert in the science of Krishna, only then he can be a Guru.

From Malaviyaji's life we can understand that Malaviyaji always lived his life according to the scriptures. He felt it deeply that without giving value to spiritual education one cannot be purified internally and live a peaceful life.

### **An epilogue**

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji is the practical example who established a value based education system. He gave his full effort to make the University spiritually strong. He made Gita Class compulsory for every student at his time. We can see from his lectures and activities that how much he valued Bhagavat Gita. Because he considered that from the outside disciplinary action we cannot develop our character. Bhagavat Gita purifies us from within. Thus one can be free from mode of ignorance and can serve people and society better. Malaviyaji's pious character and strong determination to serve people made him Mahamana. The new generation must learn from his life and if one has no time to devote his/her life like Malaviyaji to educate people for a better society, at least one can educate his/her own family and friends. This will be a great service to the Nation.

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